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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [EG](#) [KWBG](#) [GM](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: ISRAEL TO RELEASE WOMEN PRISONERS IN RETURN FOR  
"SIGN OF LIFE" FOR SHALIT

Classified By: DCM Luis G. Moreno, Reason 1.4 (b) (d)

[¶1.](#) (SBU) The Prime Minister's Office released a statement September 30 confirming media reports that the security cabinet has decided to release twenty Palestinian women prisoners in return for "updated and unequivocal proof regarding the well-being and status of Gilad Shalit." Prime Minister Netanyahu commended the GOI's lead negotiator for Shalit's release, Haggai Hadas, for his and his team's efforts to confirm that Shalit is alive.

[¶2.](#) (S) Egyptian General Intelligence Service Chief of Station Sameh Nabil told PolCouns September 30 that the German mediator is bringing a videotape of Shalit to Hadas. Nabil said the Israelis have been insisting on receiving proof that Shalit is alive as part of the prisoner exchange indirect negotiations with Hamas, and he hoped the videotape would be sufficiently convincing. Nabil commented, however, that the German mediator's efforts to arrange the prisoner exchange have run into the same problem over which the Egyptian mediation effort stalled, i.e. the last 125 names on the Hamas list of prisoners to be released and Israel's opposition to releasing Hamas prisoners to the West Bank. Nabil was skeptical that the exchange of the "sign of life" in return for the twenty women would lead to a breakthrough.  
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